……………………………………………

………………………………., Kwara State.

………………………..., 2021.

**Honourable ……………………………………..,**

**Kwara State House of Assembly (KWHA),**

**Representative of …………………………. Constituency,**

**……………………… LGA, Kwara State.**

**Dear Sir,**

**REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) BILL**

I write to you as a member of your constituency from the above address. I am aware of the fact that we are practicing representative democracy where elected legislators represent the interest of their constituents on governance matters. The domestication of FOI bill is a governance matter within your legislative power, and I want to use this medium to demand for immediate passage of the bill by KWHA.

The FOI is a right guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, various Declarations of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, and more importantly, Section 39 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The FOI bill was passed by the 8th KWHA members on 30th May, 2019 and transmitted to Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq for Assent on 20th June, 2019 under the watch of the 9th KWHA, which you are part of. Consequently, the Governor requested for minor amendment of sections 4, 5(1), and 6 where he wanted seven (7) days to be changed to fourteen (14) days. He also requested for an amendment of section 10 where he wanted punishment to become a combination of 2-year prison term and 500,000 naira fine rather than an option of prison term or the 100,000 naira fine contained in the bill.

The Speaker read the request from the Governor for minor amendment of this highly important bill at the Plenary of the KWHA on 23rd July, 2019. To my utmost surprise, there seem to be no sign of activity by the committees to whom the bill’s amendment was referred by the Speaker. Sadly, no Honourable member of the KWHA has deemed it necessary to raise issues on the Floor of the House concerning the bill till date, which portrays all members (including you) as accomplice. The inaction of the 9th KWHA members on the FOI bill has denied the Governor his assent, as his letter to the KWHA clearly showed that he was interested in the Bill and would give assent as soon as the KWHA finalises the minor amendment so requested.

As a member of the constituency you represent in the hallowed chamber of the KWHA, I request your immediate legislative actions that will lead to the passage of the FOI bill before June, 2021.

While thanking you for your anticipated cooperation, please be assured of my continued regards. In case you need to contact me, please email **……………………………………….**

**………………………………………………**

 **Constituent**